

STUDIES IN FLORIDA BOTANY

6. A Key to the Genera of Florida Orchids*

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The eighty-seven known species of the Orchidaceae to date recorded from Florida are distributed in thirty-seven genera. The indigenous representatives range in number from several monotypic aggregations (Basiphyllaea, Bletia, Pleurothallis, Zeuxine) to such polytypic groups as Habenaria, Epidendrum, Spiranthes, and Oncidium.

The following dichotomous key is a greatly simplified one, relying on readily evident vegetative and floral-hue characters whenever possible.

I. EPIPHYTIC PLANTS

- A. Plants leafless.
 - 1. Flowers very large and showy, green and white.....
.....29. Polyrrhiza
 - 1. Flowers minute, green or greenish..5. Campylocentrum
- A. Plants with leaves.
 - 1. Flowers non-resupinate with lip uppermost.....
.....30. Polystachya
 - 1. Flowers resupinate, with lip lowermost.
 - a. Pollinia 2 or 4.....10. Cyrtopodium
 - i. Pollinia 2.
 - b. Plants with pseudobulbs.
 - ii. Flowers large, yellow and brown, with long-caudate segments..3. Brassia
 - ii. Flowers small, yellowish, not long-caudate.....23. Macradenia
 - b. Plants without pseudobulbs or with very small ones. (N.B.: Oncidium floridanum Ames has prominent pseudobulbous thickenings but is placed with the relatively bulbless other members of its genus for convenience.)
 - ii. Stems elongate, with a solitary apical leaf.
 - c. Flowers yellow or white, bell-shaped; plant large....27. Pleurothallis
 - c. Flowers magenta or red, spreading; plant very small..20. Lepanthopsis

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- ii. Stems very shortly pseudobulbous, with several leaves.
 - c. Flowers short-spurred, white or lilac.18. Ionopsis
 - c. Flowers spurless, white, brown, purple, or yellow.....26. Oncidium
- i. Pollinia 4; plants with or without pseudobulbs.
 - b. Flowers solitary, borne from base of plant..25. Maxillaria
 - b. Flowers solitary, several or numerous, borne from apex of stem or bulb..11. Epidendrum

II. VINE-LIKE PLANTS

- A. Plants vine-like, terrestrial or epiphytic, with fleshy fruits.....36. Vanilla

III. TERRESTRIAL PLANTS

(N.B.: Oncidium floridanum Ames is usually a terrestrial species, but is placed in Section I of this key with the epiphytes, as the other members of its genus within our area are of epiphytic habit, and this species may occasionally adapt itself to that mode of growth.)

- A. Plants leafless, fleshy, with an erect inflorescence of showy flowers.....
 - 1. Pollinia 4.....8. Corallorrhiza
 - 1. Pollinia 8.....16. Hexalectris
- A. Plants leafy.
 - 1. Pollinia elongated into caudicles, emerging from base of the erect-anther-cells..15. Habenaria
 - 1. Pollinia-bases or caudicle-apices (if present) emerging from apex of anther.
 - a. Leaves plicate.
 - 2. Flowers reddish or green, generally not opening.....35. Tropidia
 - 2. Flowers opening fully or at least partially.
 - b. Sepals and petals greatly dwarfed by lip... ..20. Liparis
 - b. Sepals and petals not greatly smaller than lip
 - 3. Pollinia 4.
 - c. Flowers waxy, green; lip marked with magenta, spurred..14. Galeandra
 - c. Flowers not waxy, yellow, maroon or brown; lip usually maroon, with a mentum.....13. Eulophia
 - 3. Pollinia 8.....2. Bletia
 - a. Leaves not plicate.
 - 2. Flowers large-- at least 2.5 cm in diameter.
 - b. Lip fimbriate on edges...6. Centrogenium
 - b. Lip not fimbriate on edges.
 - 3. Flowers inverted.....4. Calopogon
 - 3. Flowers not inverted.
 - c. Leaves whorled.....18. Isotria

- c. Leaves not whorled.
 - 4. Flowers 2.5 cm across..27. Pogonia
 - 4. Flowers 5 cm across....7. Cleistes
- 2. Flowers relatively small-- under 2.5 cm in diameter.
 - b. Flowers in spiral or one-sided (secund) spikes.....32. Spiranthes
 - b. Flowers not as above.
 - 3. Leaves in a basal rosette.
 - c. Flowers on widely-spreading pedicels..
 -30. Ponthieva
 - c. Flowers not as above.
 - 4. Flowers hooded...31. Prescottia
 - 4. Flowers not hooded..9. Cranichis
 - 3. Leaves not in a basal rosette.
 - c. Leaves borne singly or in pairs half-way up stem.
 - 4. Lip much larger than other segments.
 -21. Listera
 - 4. Lip not much larger than other segments.....23. Malaxis
 - c. Leaves not borne half-way up stem.
 - 4. Leaves reduced to small bract-like organs.....34. Triphora
 - 4. Leaves not as above.
 - d. Leaves solitary, basal.....
 -33. Tipularia
 - d. Leaves several, not all basal.
 - 5. Flowers in a tight spike, white with yellow-green lip.
 -37. Zeuxine
 - 5. Flowers in lax spikes.
 - e. Flowers small, white or greenish..12. Erythroides
 - e. Flowers medium-sized, green with magenta lip.....
 - ...1. Basiphyllaea